IN THE CLAIMS:

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1-36 (CANCELLED).

37. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for producing a fast disintegrating tablet, the method comprising thoroughly blending, by using a high speed mixer, an active agent with a surface modifying material without heating, melting, dissolving or freezing ~~in the absence of a solvent~~ to form the surface modified powder having a flowability of at most 42° in terms of an angle of repose enabling direct tableting, and blending the surface modified powder with a disintegrant, followed by direct tableting.

38. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 37 ~~claim 36~~, wherein a diluent is further blended to the surface modified powder.

39. CANCELLED.

40. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method according to claim 37, wherein before or after the blending at least one member selected from the group consisting of finely divided titanium oxide, talc, erythritol and trehalose, is further added.

41. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for producing a tablet preparation, which comprises subjecting the surface modified powder of claim 37 ~~claim 19~~ to direct tableting,

42. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 41 further comprising a step of blending the powder with an additive selected from the group consisting of binders, acids, foaming agents, artificial sweeteners, flavorings, lubricants, and colorants.

43. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 37, wherein the disintegrant is selected from the group consisting of partly pregelatinized starch, crospovidone, crystalline, cellulose-carmellose sodium, low substituted hydroxyl-propyl cellulose, starch, corn starch, potato starch, carmellose, carmellose calcium, carmellose sodium, croscarmellose sodium, carbozymethylstarch sodium.

44. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 37, wherein the disintegrant is partly pregelatinized starch or crospovidone.

45. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 47, ~~surface modified powder of claim 20,~~ wherein the diluent in selected from the group consisting of lactose, anhydrous calcium hydrogenphosphate, crystalline cellulose, sucrose, D-mannitol, low substituted hydroxypropyl cellulose, xylitol, erythritol, trehalose, and aspartame or combinations thereof.

46. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 37, wherein ~~surface modified powder of claim 20, where~~ no diluent is present in the surface modified powder.

47. (NEW) The method of claim 37, wherein the surface modified powder further comprises a diluent.

48. (NEW) The method of claim 37, wherein the surface modified powder further comprises a disintegrant.

49. (NEW) The method of claim 48, wherein the disintegrant is partly pregelatinized starch or crospovidone.

50. (NEW) The method of claim 37, wherein the surface modifying material is selected from agents capable of physically adhering to the active agent for surface modification thereof and contributing to improving the flowability of the active agent.

51. (NEW) The method of claim 37, wherein the surface modifying material is selected from the group consisting of light silicic anhydride, talc, stearic acid, magnesium stearate, calcium stearate, starch, titanium oxide, citric acid, malic acid, adipic acid, hydrous silicon dioxide and calcium carbonate and mixtures thereof.

52. (NEW) The method of claim 37, wherein the surface modifying material is comprised of at least one member selected from the group consisting of light silicic anhydride, talc, stearic acid, magnesium stearate and calcium stearate.

53. (NEW) The method of claim 37, wherein the surface modifying material is light silicic anhydride.

54. (NEW) The method of claim 53, wherein the surface modifying material comprises 0.1 to 5 wt% light silicic anhydride.

55. (NEW) The method of claim 47, wherein the diluent is mixed with the active agent, said diluent being selected from the group consisting of lactose, erythritol, trehalose, anhydrous calcium hydrogenphosphate and crystalline cellulose.

56. (NEW) The method of claim 37, wherein the active agent is combined with at least one member selected from the group consisting of finely divided titanium oxide, talc, erythritol and trehalose.

57. (New) The method of claim 37, wherein the high speed mixer is selected from the group consisting of a device for surface modification, a high speed agitation granulator and a versatile mixer.